



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: David A. BRYNIARSKI Confirmation No.: 3770

Patent No.: 6,774,062 B1

Application No.: 09/510,857

Patent Date: August 10, 2004

Filing Date: February 23, 2000

For: NET-REINFORCED FILM  
STRUCTURE WITH MODIFIED  
STRAND PROFILE

Attorney Docket No.: 86012-3100-USPT

**REQUEST FOR CERTIFICATE OF CORRECTION UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.322**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**Certificate**  
**NOV 05 2004**  
**of Correction**

Sir:

Patentee hereby respectfully requests the issuance of a Certificate of Correction in connection with the above-identified patent. The corrections are listed on the attached Form PTO-1050, submitted in duplicate. The corrections requested are as follows:

Column 3:

Line 43 (claim 1, line 7), after "wider cross-section than said standard netting strands;" insert -- and --.

Line 45 (claim 1, line 9), after "opposing film structure", insert -- along a generally linear seal area,

--wherein said at least one seal netting strand is located only in the linear seal area --.

Support for these corrections can be found in the Examiner's Amendment attached to the Notice of Allowance mailed April 26, 2004.

Column 4:

Line 9 (claim 9, line 2), after "strands further have a shallower cross-section than said", insert -- standard --. Support for this correction can be found in application claim 27.

The requested corrections are for errors that appear to have been made by the Patent Office. Therefore, no fee is believed to be due for this request. Should any fees be required,

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however, please charge such fees to Winston & Strawn LLP Deposit Account No. 50-1814.  
Please issue a Certificate of Correction in due course.

Respectfully submitted,

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date 11/2/04

\_\_\_\_\_  
Brian R. Pollack, Reg. No. 47,001

**WINSTON & STRAWN LLP**  
**Customer No. 28763**

202-371-5904

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**UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE  
CERTIFICATE OF CORRECTION**

PATENT NO.: 6,774,062 B1  
DATED: August 10, 2004  
INVENTORS: Bryniarski

Page 1 of 1

It is certified that error appears in the above-identified patent and that said Letters Patent is hereby corrected as shown below:

Column 3:

Line 43, after "wider cross-section than said standard netting strands;",  
insert -- and --.

Line 45, after "opposing film structure", insert -- along a generally linear seal area,  
--wherein said at least one seal netting strand is located only in the linear seal area --.

Column 4:

Line 9, after "strands further have a shallower cross-section than said", insert -- standard --.

**UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE  
CERTIFICATE OF CORRECTION**

PATENT NO.: 6,774,062 B1  
DATED: August 10, 2004  
INVENTORS: Bryniarski

Page 1 of 1

It is certified that error appears in the above-identified patent and that said Letters Patent is hereby corrected as shown below:

Column 3:

Line 43, after "wider cross-section than said standard netting strands;",  
insert -- and --.

Line 45, after "opposing film structure", insert -- along a generally linear seal area,  
--wherein said at least one seal netting strand is located only in the linear seal area --.

Column 4:

Line 9, after "strands further have a shallower cross-section than said", insert -- standard --.

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standard strands 16, in the process of being heat-sealed to an opposing seal strand 24. The opposing seal strand 24 is coextruded with and affixed to an opposing film layer 28 and opposing standard strands 26. As the net-reinforced film 10 propagates in the direction shown by the arrow A along with the opposing net-reinforced film 32 past a heat sealing element 30, the heat sealing element 30 contacts the seal area from above, moving in the direction shown by the arrow B, and forms a strong heat seal between the seal netting strand 20 and the opposing seal netting strand 24. The heat sealing element 30 may be comprised of any of several heating elements known in the art, such as a single hot bar, a dual hot bar sealer, or a hot wire through teflon tape.

Because both the seal netting strand 20 and the opposing seal netting strand 24 are formed using substantially the same modified strand profile 22, a significantly greater margin for error in aligning the seal netting strands 20 and 24 and the heat sealing element 30 can be achieved than if seal strands had the same profile as standard strands. This increases the possible speed and efficiency of the process, because small adjustments to alignment will not have to be made. Further, the increased widths of the seal netting strand 20 and the opposing seal netting strand 24 allow for more surface area contact by the heat sealing element 30, giving rise to a stronger seal than could be achieved if the seal netting strands were formed with the standard strand profile 18.

While the present invention has been described with reference to one or more particular embodiments, those skilled in the art will recognize that many changes may be made thereto without departing from the spirit and scope of the present invention. Each of these embodiments and obvious variations thereof is contemplated as falling within the spirit and scope of the claimed invention, which is set forth in the following claims.

What is claimed is:

1. A net-reinforced film structure formed by the process of:

providing a film layer;

attaching a netting to said film layer, said netting including standard netting strands and at least one seal netting strand, said at least one seal netting strand having a wider cross-section than said standard netting strands;

sealing only said at least one seal netting strand to an opposing film structure.

2. The film structure of claim 1 wherein sealing only said at least one seal netting strand to an opposing film structure comprises sealing said at least one seal netting strand to an opposing seal netting strand.

3. The film structure of claim 1 wherein sealing only said at least one seal netting strand to an opposing film structure comprises sealing said at least one seal netting strand to an opposing film.

4. The film structure of claim 1 wherein said at least one seal netting strand has a shallower cross-section than said standard netting strands at a time prior to sealing said at least one seal netting strand to an opposing film structure.

5. The film structure of claim 1 wherein the film layer is comprised of a film material selected from a group consisting of low-density polyethylene, linear low-density polyethylene, high density polyethylene, metallocene, ethylene vinyl acetate, and blends of these.

6. The film structure of claim 1 wherein the netting is comprised of a netting material selected from a group consisting of linear low-density polyethylene, high-density

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polyethylene, polypropylene, polyethylene, polypropylene/polyethylene copolymer, and metallocene.

7. The film structure of claim 1 wherein said seal netting strands have a width greater than or equal to about 60 mils.

8. The film structure of claim 1 wherein the standard netting strands have a width greater than or equal to about 5 mils.

9. The film structure of claim 1 wherein said seal netting strands further have a shallower cross-section than said netting strands.

10. The net-reinforced film structure formed by the process of claim 1 wherein said process further comprises moving said film layer and said opposing film structure in a direction approximately parallel to a length of a heating element.

11. A net-reinforced film structure formed by the process of:

providing a first film layer;

attaching a first netting to said first film layer, said first netting including first standard netting strands and at least one first seal netting strand, said at least one first seal netting strand having a wider cross-section than said first standard netting strands;

providing a second film layer;

attaching a second netting to said second film layer, said second netting including second standard netting strands and at least one second seal netting strand, said at least one second seal netting strand having a wider cross-section than said second standard netting strands; placing said first netting adjacent said second netting such that said at least one first seal netting strand is approximately aligned with said at least one second seal netting strand;

aligning said at least one first seal netting strand with a heat sealing element; and

sealing only said at least one first seal netting strand to said at least one second seal netting strand.

12. The film structure of claim 11 wherein said at least one first seal netting strand has a shallower cross-section than said first standard netting strands at a time prior to sealing said at least one first seal netting strand to said at least one second seal netting strand.

13. The film structure of claim 11 wherein said first film layer is comprised of a film material selected from a group consisting of low-density polyethylene, linear low-density polyethylene, high density polyethylene, metallocene, ethylene vinyl acetate, and blends of these.

14. The film structure of claim 11 wherein said first netting is comprised of a netting material selected from a group consisting of linear low-density polyethylene, high-density polyethylene, polypropylene, polyethylene, polypropylene/polyethylene copolymer, and metallocene.

15. The film structure of claim 11 wherein said first seal netting strands have a width greater than or equal to about 60 mils.

16. The film structure of claim 11 wherein said first standard netting strands have a width greater than or equal to about 5 mils.

17. The net-reinforced film structure formed by the process of claim 11 wherein said process further comprises moving said first film layer and said second film layer in a direction approximately parallel to a length of said heat sealing element.

\* \* \* \* \*

along a generally linear seal area,  
wherein said at least one seal netting  
strand is located only in the linear seal area

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